

VETERANS' SERVICES

Fiscal Year 2009

The Department of Veterans' Services continues to offer assistance to veterans and their families through a number of federal and state programs. The state veterans' benefit program provides temporary assistance to veterans and their families who qualify to receive benefits and can show need. These benefits provide for medical care and cash for living expenses.

The Department of Veterans' Services will also aid veterans and their families in the filing of federal forms that are necessary for them to receive a wide range of benefits provided by the Veterans' Administration. The Department now has access to many veteran-related internet sites and government agencies.

FISCAL YEAR 2009

State-Wide:

Patrick-Murray administration announces home loan program for Massachusetts military veterans: "Home for the Brave" program will provide safe, affordable mortgages and special services for qualified veterans.

Heat assistance program created: To provide additional fuel assistance for heating season (November 2008 – April 2009) of up to \$400 per family in EMERGENCY aid, after all conventional assistance has been exhausted.

Locally:

The Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony held by this department created a wonderful feeling of community this year. I found that the community was out in force this season. I am grateful to all who participated this year.

The Veterans' Day Ceremony was well attended this year. I hope that the weather wasn't the only factor, it was a beautiful day! Many thanks for all who participated.

Kathleen Pollard
Veterans' Agent